

June 21, 1939.

Circular Letter No. 237.

To : Superintendent of Schools, Principals, and High School English Teachers.

Re : HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH COURSES

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In making programs for the school year 1939-40, please take into consideration the following instructions concerning English courses:

1. Motion Picture Appreciation is a one semester course, open to third year students whose general average in English is at least "B" and to fourth year students whose average is "C" or above. This course may be offered during the first semester or the second or, if there is sufficient enrollment, during both semesters. As this course, when properly taught, offers a fine opportunity for work in oral and written English as well as the chance to develop discriminative ability among pupils, it is advisable to include it within the curriculum whenever possible.
2. Magazine Reading is a one semester course, open to third year students whose general average in English is at least "B" and to fourth year students whose average is "C" or above. This course may be offered during the first semester or the second or, if there is sufficient enrollment, during both semesters.
3. Speech is a complete year course open to fourth year students whose average in English is at least "B". This course should be offered only in schools where there is a teacher qualified to teach it and sufficient demand among the pupils.
4. World Literature is a complete year course and is open only to fourth year students whose average is at least "B". This course should be offered only where there is a teacher fully qualified and group of students who wish to do advanced work in literature.
5. When referring to the elective their descriptive titles should be used.
6. The objective of the elective courses in English is to provide an opportunity for pupils who desire to polish their English.

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7. These courses should, under no circumstances, be regarded as remedial course; nor should they be used as "fillers" for completing student programs or for providing a fifth subject for pupils who need one more course.
8. Since "Motion Picture Appreciation" and "Magazine Reading" are less restricted than the others, these courses should be offered more extensively. The idea that the work to be done in "Motion Picture Appreciation" consists only of making a scrap book and attending motion pictures is erroneous. Likewise the notion that unpurposeful reading of magazines comprises the work for the course "Magazine Reading" is erroneous.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOSE M. GALLARDO
Commissioner of Education